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66-2564/a

3094-66/1

23 JUN 1966

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Lt. General W. A. Davis
Vice Commander
Air Force Systems Command
Andrews Air Force Base
Washington, D. C.

Dear General Davis:

I am in full agreement with the concern expressed in your letter of 3 June regarding the deficiencies in our knowledge of the more advanced weapons currently being developed by the Soviet R&D community. May I say that your desire for National Estimates on Soviet military R&D is shared by the USIB community. At present, NIE 11-66 on Soviet military R&D is being drafted for USIB review, probably sometime in July.

Backing up the above NIE, is an all-source study being prepared by the Scientific Intelligence Committee covering the scope and direction of the military research and development. Unfortunately, this all-out effort by the whole intelligence community suffers from the general lack of detailed knowledge on the early phases of the Soviet R&D cycle. We are currently considering additional ways and means to close the gaps in our knowledge which the above study has revealed.

USAF review(s)
completed.

Sincerely,

(signed) W. F. Raborn

W. F. Raborn
Director

17 JUN 1966

Date

16 JUN 1966

Date

21 JUN 1966

Date

CONCURRENCE:

25X1

Director/Scientific Intelligence

25X1

Director/National Estimates

Deputy Director for Science & Technology

Distribution: Orig & 1-Addressee; 1-DCI; 1-Exec. Registry;
2-DD/S&T; 2-AD/SI; 2-D/ONE; 1-IPS

25X1

OSI/IPS [] (15 June 66)

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Remarks:

For preparation of a prompt reply, in co-ordination with ONE, for DCI signature. Copies have been sent to ONE, DD/I, DD/P, IG, and USIB/S. [] will ascertain whether DCI would want this disseminated to USIB agencies.

SUSPENSE: 17 June

FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER	
FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.	DATE
O/Executive Director/HKnoche	9 Jun 66

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66-2584/1

3094-66/2

17 JUN 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Letter to Vice Commander, Air Force Systems Command

1. The attached letter for your signature is in reply to a letter from General Davis, Vice Commander, AFSC, suggesting USIB review the need for National Estimates on Soviet Technology.

2. General Davis is apparently unaware that a National Estimate on Soviet R&D is already being prepared on the basis of an indepth SIC study, recently completed. Both the NIE and the Summary and Conclusions of the SIC study should reach USIB in July. The prime concern of Air Force, as you may know, is that current weapons being analyzed do not necessarily reflect the more advanced projects in the early development cycle. The SIC is preparing a post-mortem on its study which will recommend more effort on this area.

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Director of Scientific Intelligence

Attachment:
As stated

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GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

TO: DDCI
DCI

Following the DCI's visit to the Air Force Systems Command, General Davis wrote the DCI to urge that USIB review the need to cover Soviet R&D activities in a National Estimate.

suggests that General Davis is apparently unaware that an NIE on Soviet R&D is being prepared on the basis of a Scientific Intelligence Committee (SIC) study. Both the NIE and the study's summary and conclusions should come before USIB in July. The SIC intends to recommend that greater effort be devoted to this problem.

Recommend that the Director sign the attached letter advising General Davis of the above.

Approved For Release 2004/07/08 : CIA-RDP80B01676R000300160016-7

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Executive Registry

66-2564

Department of the Air Force
Headquarters Air Force Systems Command
Andrews Air Force Base, Washington, D. C. 20331

SCT

2 JUN 1975

Soviet Military R&D (U)

CIA (The Honorable William F. Raborn)
Washington, DC

1. (S) (Op-1) You may recall the concern you expressed during your visit with us at Andrews Air Force Base, regarding the possible obscuration of important items by the multitude of requests for intelligence. An additional and serious aspect of this obscuration problem has become apparent, and we believe it could be a subject for consideration during the USIB review of need for national estimates on Soviet technology. The problem concerns a seeming preoccupation by intelligence with the many new weapons appearing in the USSR to the exclusion of adequate attention to the more advanced weapons which comprise the current efforts of the Soviet R&D community.
2. (S) (Op-3) Intelligence reports recent and substantial growth in Soviet support to R&D resource development, and very respectable increases in technical competence in the areas which support the development of weapons. Current assessments consider this growth as pertaining to the many new Soviet weapons which we have seen come into existence, but this practice addresses only a part of the problem. The picture is not complete. The weapons we see today, in service or undergoing testing, are the products of a technical capacity of several years past; their relationship to current R&D and future weapons is limited, although they may provide an indication of intent to develop weapons and proof of past competence.
3. (S) (Op-3) National estimates of Soviet military R&D are urgently needed. The Air Force Systems Command is particularly interested in basing long term R&D planning upon a more sound foundation than that now available from intelligence of existing equipment and the incremental improvements thereto. But we lack positive information about the specific advanced weapons projects now in the Soviet labs and design bureaus. We ask your assistance, therefore, in insisting upon the development of meaningful estimates of the Soviet R&D activities and achievements leading to the weapons of 1970 - 1975.

SIGNED

W. A. DAVIS
Lt General, USAF
Vice Commander

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